

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Due to the difficult economic situation in Albania, Albanians and inhabitants of northern Epirus are reportedly trying to escape to Greece and Yugoslavia, although there is increasing pressure put on the families of the refugees; these families are moved to the region of Tirana.
2. Soviet assistance in foodstuffs, in spite of the recent trip\* to the USSR made by the mission under Enver Hoxha, is not enough to cover even the minimum needs of the Albanian armed forces and of the officials of the Albanian Communist Party.
3. All the resources of the state serve for the exchange of goods, in accordance with the trade agreements made with the countries of the Eastern Bloc. When the Kucove-Vlone pipe-line is completed,\*\* the entire amount of oil exported will be delivered to the USSR and to Bulgaria. It is confirmed that work has begun on the construction of new oil tanks in Vlone under the supervision of Soviet technicians.\*\*\* Because so much gasoline and kerosene is being delivered to the USSR and to Bulgaria, there is a scarcity of such products in Albania.\*\*
4. All the minerals exported from the Selinice and Rubic mines go to the USSR and Bulgaria.\*\* The Soviets are particularly interested in the improvement of these mines, the work of which they supervise, and from time to time they provide various kinds of equipment for them.
5. It is confirmed (sic) that all the agricultural and livestock products which are forcibly collected are exported. Severe measures are taken against those causing difficulties in the delivery of these products.
6. On 15 March 1949 a trade agreement was reportedly signed between Albania and Hungary. Tuk Yakova, Deputy Prime Minister, signed for the Albanian Government. The agreement sets a goal of \$1,730,000 worth of goods to be exchanged. Albania will export asphalt and will import machines and spare parts. An additional \$3,350,000 worth of goods will be exchanged in the form of clearances and credits. Albania will deliver minerals (such as chromium), timber for industrial purposes, medical herbs, etc., and will receive motor-vehicles, equipment for the mines, agricultural implements, building material, machines for weaving, chemical products, glass, etc.

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7. It is confirmed that work on the extension of the Peqin-Elbasan railroad line has begun.\*\* Work has also started on the construction of the railroad line from Kasiari to Yzberish (industrial area). Work has begun on a motor road from Ypsiek (sic) to Mezez (8 kilometers long) to connect with the motor road to Yzberish. For this purpose five labor brigades have been assigned from Tirana, Korce, Shkoder, and Elbasan; they consist of 220 men each, to be replaced by others after the first groups have worked for two months.
8. In the Kotsionvi (sic) area new oil-wells have been drilled.
9. Work on the construction of a pipe-line from Patos to Vlone will be finished in the near future.
10. On 1 June 1949 work was to begin on grading and constructing a motor road between Fulkas and Kolskesai, a distance of 45 kilometers. The target date for the completion of this highway is October 1949. The road is being constructed by "Rouga" (a state enterprise). The target date is an exceedingly ambitious one because of the mountainous region traversed and hardness of the ground. Twenty small wooden bridges will be constructed as a part of the highway. Albanian experts regard the construction of this highway as of great importance to Albanian economy, because not only will it connect several provincial centers, but it will also offer the possibility of exploiting the wealth of the forests in that region.
11. The distillery in the village of Drenova (Korce) has been working since last April. At present it is producing only alcohol, but it is expected to produce beverages at a later date.
12. On 18 April 1949 The Rumanian S. S. ARDEAL arrived in Durres with the first shipment of goods following the signing of the trade agreement between Albania and Rumania. The ship brought 12 railroad cars as a gift of the Central Committee of the Albanian (Communist) Labor Party.
13. In April and May eight vessels arrived in Durres.\*\*\*\* Four were Russian, two Polish, one Rumanian and one Bulgarian. They brought maize, wheat, and other foodstuffs, rolling stock, machinery for the Kucove pipe-line, war materiel, 100 5-ton Diesel trucks for the Albanian Army and for the Greek guerrillas, machinery for the Rubic and Selinice mines. It is said that these vessels brought a number of guns and motor vehicles and loaded mineral and livestock products.
14. Five steamers arrived in Vlone carrying various items of machinery, foodstuffs, empty drums, maize, and 20 tons of war materiel which was transported to warehouses in Vlone. Gasoline, kerosene, and livestock products were loaded on the ships.

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